IN THE CLAIMS

Amended claims follow:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium for controlling a target computer to perform an operation in response to data received from an initiating computer, said computer program product comprising:

agent process code operable to execute on said target computer to provide an agent process to:

receive at an agent process executing on said target computer autonomously generated operation specifying data sent from said initiating computer to said target computer;

read from said operation specifying data an identifier of a target process for performing said operation; and

if said target process is available to said target computer to pass at least a portion of said operation specifying data from said agent process to said target process; and

target process code operable to provide one or more target processes for performing operations in response to operation specifying data, said one or more target processes being provided at said target computer independently of said agent process;

wherein said operation performed includes configuring said target computer to execute a computer program;

wherein said target process is operable to map configuration data specified within said operation specifying data to a configuration data store of said target computer;

wherein said configuration data store is one of:

a Windows Registry entry;

an INI file;

a DAPI store; and

a database entry;

wherein said identifier of a target process includes at least one of:

data specifying a computer file operable to trigger said target process;

data specifying a communication channel operable to trigger said target process; and

data specifying an operating system command operable to trigger said target process;

~~wherein said operation includes returning result data from said target computer to said initiating computer in dependence upon said operation performed by said target process;~~

~~wherein said result data includes data specifying existing configuration data of said target computer;~~

~~wherein said target process is operable to map said existing configuration data of said target computer stored within said configuration data store of said target computer to said result data to be returned to said initiating computer~~.

2. (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said operation specifying data is passed from said initiating computer to said target computer as XML data.

3. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 2, wherein said operation specifying data represents said target process as a complex data type within said XML data.

4. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 3, wherein parameter data used by said target process is represented by data within said complex data type of said target process.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said operation specifying data includes parameter data used by said target process in said operation.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said result data is passed from said target computer to said initiating computer as XML data.

15. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said operation includes returning said result data from said target computer to said initiating computer in dependence upon whether or not said target process is available to said target computer.

16. (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein an operation that may be performed by said target computer includes installing a new target process.

17. (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said operation specifying data is validated by said target computer by comparing with a template defining valid data.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a target computer to perform an operation in response to data received from an initiating computer, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at an agent process executing on said target computer autonomously generated operation specifying data sent from said initiating computer to said target computer;

reading from said operation specifying data an identifier of a target process for performing said operation;

if said target process is available to said target computer, then passing at least a portion of said operation specifying data from said agent process to said target process; and

performing said operation using said target process; wherein

one or more target processes for performing operations in response to operation specifying data are provided at said target computer independently of said agent process;

wherein said operation performed includes configuring said target computer to execute a computer program;

wherein said target process is operable to map configuration data specified within said operation specifying data to a configuration data store of said target computer;

wherein said configuration data store is one of:

a Windows Registry entry;

an INI file;

a DAPI store; and

a database entry;

wherein said identifier of a target process includes at least one of:

data specifying a computer file operable to trigger said target process;

data specifying a communication channel operable to trigger said target process; and

data specifying an operating system command operable to trigger said target process;

~~wherein said operation includes returning result data from said target computer to said initiating computer in dependence upon said operation performed by said target process;~~

~~wherein said result data includes data specifying existing configuration data of said target computer;~~

~~wherein said target process is operable to map said existing configuration data of said target computer stored within said configuration data store of said target computer to said result data to be returned to said initiating computer~~.

19. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said operation specifying data is passed from said initiating computer to said target computer as XML data.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said operation specifying data represents said target process as a complex data type within said XML data.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein parameter data used by said target process is represented by data within said complex data type of said target process.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said operation specifying data includes parameter data used by said target process in said operation.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said result data is passed from said target computer to said initiating computer as XML data.

32. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said operation includes returning said result data from said target computer to said initiating computer in dependence upon whether or not said target process is available to said target computer.

33. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein an operation that may be performed by said target computer includes installing a new target process.

34. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said operation specifying data is validated by said target computer by comparing with a template defining valid data.

35. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for controlling a target computer to perform an operation in response to data received from an initiating computer, said apparatus comprising:

agent process logic of said target computer to provide an agent process to:

receive at an agent process executing on said target computer autonomously generated operation specifying data sent from said initiating computer to said target computer;

read from said operation specifying data an identifier of a target process for performing said operation; and

if said target process is available to said target computer to pass at least a portion of said operation specifying data from said agent process to said target process; and

target process logic operable to provide one or more target processes for performing operations in response to operation specifying data, said one or more target processes being provided at said target computer independently of said agent process;

wherein said operation performed includes configuring said target computer to execute a computer program;

wherein said target process is operable to map configuration data specified within said operation specifying data to a configuration data store of said target computer;

wherein said configuration data store is one of:

a Windows Registry entry;

an INI file;

a DAPI store; and

a database entry;

wherein said identifier of a target process includes at least one of:

data specifying a computer file operable to trigger said target process;

data specifying a communication channel operable to trigger said target process; and

data specifying an operating system command operable to trigger said target process;

~~wherein said operation includes returning result data from said target computer to said initiating computer in dependence upon said operation performed by said target process;~~

~~wherein said result data includes data specifying existing configuration data of said target computer;~~

~~wherein said target process is operable to map said existing configuration data of said target computer stored within said configuration data store of said target computer to said result data to be returned to said initiating computer~~.

36. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein said operation specifying data is passed from said initiating computer to said target computer as XML data.

37. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein said operation specifying data represents said target process as a complex data type within said XML data.

38. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 37, wherein parameter data used by said target process is represented by data within said complex data type of said target process.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein said operation specifying data includes parameter data used by said target process in said operation.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein said result data is passed from said target computer to said initiating computer as XML data.

49. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein said operation includes returning said result data from said target computer to said initiating computer in dependence upon whether or not said target process is available to said target computer.

50. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein an operation that may be performed by said target computer includes installing a new target process.

51. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein said operation specifying data is validated by said target computer by comparing with a template defining valid data.

52. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, further comprising validating said operation specifying data received at said agent process against schema data, where said schema data is sent to said agent process from said initiating computer at the same time as said operation specifying data.

53. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, further comprising validating said operation specifying data received at said agent process against schema data, where said schema data is present in said agent process when said operation specifying data is sent.

54. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, further comprising parsing said operation specifying data after validating said operation specifying data to extract at least one identifier for mapping said at least one identifier to an available target process.